

Decision to Lease and Finding of No Significant Impact

DECISION

Approximately 414,234.56 acres of public lands (349 parcels) generally available for oil and gas leasing under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use plans were nominated for the oil and gas lease sale scheduled to be held on November 21, 2006.

Based on findings, determinations, and recommendations from the BLM, Utah Field Office Managers, I have decided to offer approximately 368,087.97 acres on 280 parcels of BLM-administered lands with appropriate conditions and stipulations.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

The lands to be offered are identified by parcel number on the attached list which identifies the specific conditions, terms, stipulations and notices applicable to each parcel.

All of the parcels have been reviewed to determine if existing planning and NEPA documents adequately address the issues and environmental consequences of leasing at this time. My decision to offer parcels is based on the findings identified in the relevant field offices' Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) recommendations and modifications made by the Utah State Office Energy Support Team. It has been determined that leasing the offered parcels, with application of the terms, conditions, stipulations and notices identified, would not result in unacceptable environmental consequences.

Lands not recommended for lease sale at this time require further NEPA analysis or cannot be offered for lease because interim protection is required for preliminary determinations for potential areas of critical environmental concern or eligible wild and scenic rivers or are being evaluated in light of the decision of the United States District Court of August 1, 2006 (Case No. 2:04CV574 DAK).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on a site-specific review of the parcels to be offered for oil and gas lease sale, I have determined that with implementation of the identified specific conditions, terms, stipulations and notices, leasing of the identified parcels would not result in significant impacts on the human environment other than already analyzed in existing NEPA documents.

Approved: /s/ Kent Hoffman
Kent Hoffman
Deputy State Director
Division of Lands and Minerals

Date: October 6, 2006